



Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Center

Autism is a life long developmental disability that affects fifteen in every 10,000 people.

People who have autism experience communication and socialization difficulties. While autism affects people of a racial, ethnic and social backgrounds, its cause is unknown.

With proper diagnosis and services, people with autism can lead productive lives. Diagnosis, however is often complex and involved. While some of the cases of autism may be identified through behavioral observation alone, others may require extensive evaluation -- Including family history, psychological testing and medical studies. Because autism occurs so rarely and has varied symptoms, it is best that specially trained professionals conduct the evaluation and make the assessment.

Children with autism often learn in non-traditional ways. Learning should begin at a young age, and early intervention is critical for the development of children with autism. Families and early intervention professionals often want and need help with developing treatment plans and effective learning teaching skills.

To meet these needs, the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) provides the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Center (CARE) -- a center to diagnosis, assess and plan for services for people with autism. The CARE Center is staffed with an interacting team of autism diagnostic and treatment professionals. This comprehensive team works closely together to assess your child's needs and skills, and to recommend the best possible plan for service and training.

DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

Two options are available through the Center for diagnostic assessment.

Option I consists of a battery of tests and interviews with each family and child to determine cognitive, language, social, emotional, and behavioral strengths and weaknesses. A psychologist, educational therapist and speech pathologist will usually be involved in this initial evaluation. This option is usually best when there are no significant concerns or questions. There is no fee for this service. This level of diagnostic assessment is provided at the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation (CARE) Center. Referral is required through your DDSN regional autism office.

**Carolina Autism Resource and
Evaluation (CARE) Center**

Fairfield Office Park
1064 Gardner Rd., Suite 301
Charleston, SC 29407

Phone: (843) 852-4172

Sometimes, there are complex issues, such as medical, sensory and auditory problems, which may require more detailed study by a developmental pediatrician, occupational therapist, psychiatrist, neurologist or geneticist. In these cases, a second option is available.

Option II involves the CARE Center staff working collaboratively with medical professionals from the Vince Moseley Clinic through the Medical University of South Carolina to provide a more extensive multidisciplinary evaluation. There is a fee for these extensive services. Private insurance or Medicare may pay a portion of the fee; Medicaid will cover the costs of the fee for those who receive Medicaid benefits. This more involved level of evaluation is provided at the Vince Moseley Clinic. Families may contact the Vince Moseley Clinic directly to request and evaluation.

Medical University of South Carolina
Children's Health-Developmental Pediatrics
(formerly the Vince Moseley Center)

135 Rutledge Avenue
Charleston, SC 29425

Phone: (843) 876-1511

Upon evaluation through either Option I or II, you will receive a diagnosis and recommendations for your family member along with informational materials which will be helpful to you and your family.

TREATMENT PLANNING

Through the CARE Center, families may choose to receive assistance with the development of an in-depth homebased teaching plan for their family member with autism. If this is chosen, staff at the CARE Center will work with the family and other support members to develop a plan that the family can follow at home and share with teachers and other service providers. This plan resulting from a team planning session and an in-depth assessment of skills and abilities, show families how and what to teach their child and in what order specific skills should be taught. CARE Center staff will demonstrate how to implement the planned teaching activities and will coach family members in using the demonstrated techniques and strategies. The family will return to the CARE Center every two to four weeks for a total of seven sessions to review progress and set new goals. A DDSN regional autism consultant can provide ongoing support for the family between sessions as well as follow-up as need after the last session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation (CARE) Center is operated by the Autism Division of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, in collaboration

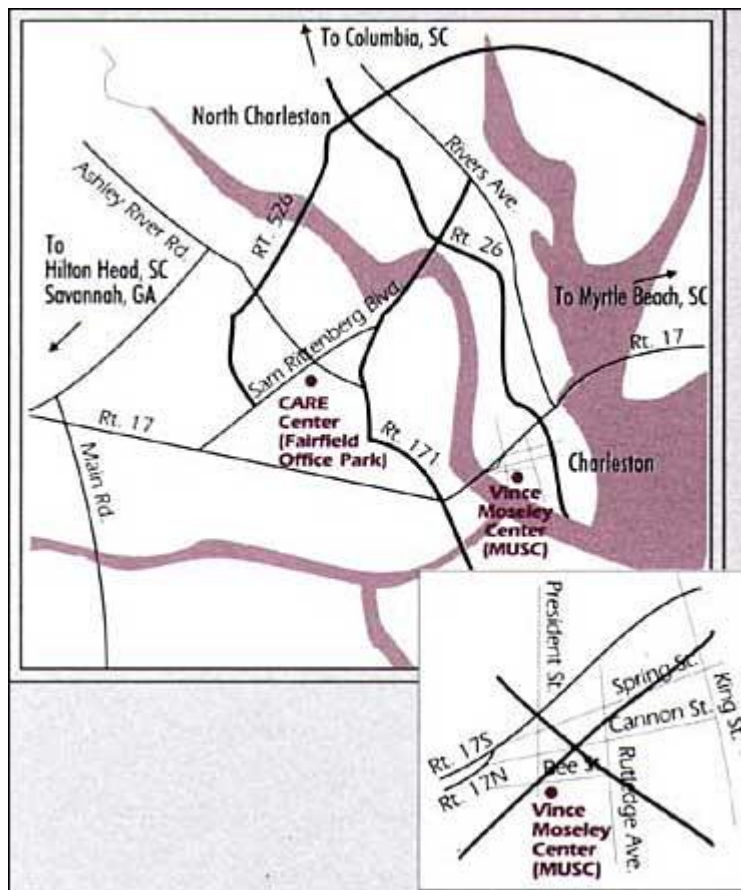
with the Medical University of South Carolina's Division of Developmental Disabilities for Medical and Related Disciplines. For further information, call:

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FAX: (843) 852-4175

**SCDDSN Central Office
Autism Division**

3440 Harden Street Ext.
PO Box 4706
Columbia, SC 29240
Phone: (803) 898-9609
FAX: (803) 898-9653



Directions to the CARE Center:

Take I-26 toward Charleston. Take a right onto I-526 to Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Turn left onto Sam Rittenberg Blvd. The CARE Center is on the right in the Fairfield Office Park.

Take Hwy. 17 to Sam Rittenberg. The CARE Center is in the Fairfield Office Park on the right.

Directions to Children Health-Developmental Pediatrics:

Take I-26 East to Charleston. At the end of the interstate, take Exit 221A/17S. Get in the right lane. After the first traffic light, take the Rutledge Ave. exit to the right. Turn left onto Vanderhorst St. for the MUSC Rutledge Tower parking.

Or, take Hwy. 17 North to Charleston. Cross the Ashley River Bridge and the overpass. For MUSC Rutledge Tower parking, turn right onto Rutledge Avenue (fourth light), then left onto Vanderhorst Street.

RECEIVING SERVICES

To receive services at the CARE Center, a family must be referred by a DDSN Autism division regional office. Contact the office nearest you.

Coastal Regional Office

Fairfield Office Park
1064 Gardner Road., Suite 302
Charleston, SC 29407
Phone: (843) 852-4120
FAX: (843) 852-4119

Midlands Regional Office

8301 Farrow Rd.
Columbia, SC 29203-3294
Phone: (803) 935-5090
FAX: (803) 935-6170

Pee Dee Regional Office

PO Box 3209
Florence, SC 29502
Phone: (843) 664-2720
FAX: (843) 664-2735

Piedmont Regional Office

269 S. Church St., Suite 309
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Phone: (864) 594-4907
FAX: (864) 594-4923

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